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12-20-1973

Letter to Roger J. Traynor Regarding His New Appointment as Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professor of Legal Science at Cambridge

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The National News Council, Inc

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Recommended Citation

Ned Schnurman, *Letter to Roger J. Traynor Regarding His New Appointment as Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professor of Legal Science at Cambridge* (1973).

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The National News Council

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NED SCHNURMAN
Associate Director

December 20, 1973.

Justice Roger J. Traynor
2643 Piedmont Avenue
Berkeley, Calif. 94704

Dear Roger:

Here is a tentative copy of the news release we have drafted about your new appointment. Please make any amendments, deletions or other changes as you wish and let us know what they are.

Both Bill and I feel the key to when this should be released rests in large part with the timing of the announcement either by Cambridge or by Hastings. As Bill mentioned to you, we feel the more time we have to discuss this with the executive committee, the better. In any event, we await your reply before discussing it with anyone. There is only one other copy of this release extant, and that is for our files here.

I trust that you and Madeline will enjoy the best of holidays.

Cordially,



Ned Schnurman

NS:dj
enclosure

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DRAFT of Press announcement -- to be held for Future Release
after coordination. December 20, 1973.

Justice Roger J. Traynor, chairman of the National News Council, announced today that he has accepted an appointment as a visiting professor of law at Cambridge University, England.

Justice Traynor, former Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, will take up his duties as Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professor of Legal Science at Cambridge on October 1 for a period of one year. He will resign his post as News Council chairman at that time.

Accepting Justice Traynor's resignation with "the deepest regret," the Council named.....to replace him as its chairman.
(description of appointee follows).

In accepting the Cambridge appointment, Justice Traynor said his departure from the News Council in no way diminished his interest in its activities. He will remain as a Council adviser and in doing so reiterated his belief that "The News Council is an idea whose time has come."

Justice Traynor was on the original 20th Century Fund task force that recommended formation of the Council, and became its first chairman in April, 1973. The judge, who is 74, was offered the Cambridge post during the time he was serving on the Fund's task force, but turned it down to guide the News Council at its inception. His council chairman's salary was \$25,000, but he has voluntarily waived payment of it during this year.

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Under Justice Traynor's chairmanship, the 15-member Council undertook as its first major project a study of access to the media headed by Columbia University Law School Professor Benno C. Schmidt, Jr. The Council also undertook an examination of charges President Nixon made against the three commercial television networks when he characterized some of their news presentations as examples of "outrageous, vicious and distorted" reporting, during his news conference of October 26, 1973.

(Further background here on successor, plus a fact sheet about Justice Traynor and successor.)